

March 4, 2008

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on March 4, 2008 at 4:00pm at the Bond Hill Community Center with the following members present: Ms. Driehaus and Messrs. Fultz, Moeddel and Smith, with Ms. Driehaus presiding. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Barnes, Shannon, Cox, Yemaya, Mobley, Stanford, Easley and Carr, and Messrs. Merrifield, Koopman, Bigham, Williams, Carlisle, Celsor, Goeldner, and Witherspoon.

### MINUTES

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2008 Public Recreation Commission meeting as submitted.

Motion passed.

### BIDS

Jeff Koopman distributed copies of an email from Deanna Brown, Senior Buyer/LAN Administrator, City of Cincinnati Purchasing Division, explaining the bid tabulation for the Oyler Recreation Area Sprayground.

Langenheim & Thompson is the lowest and best bid (\$781,285.00) according to CMC 321-37© which states that "In the event that the selection of the lowest and best bidder is based primarily upon factors (relating to SBE), the contract award may be made subject to the following limitation: the bid may not exceed an otherwise qualified bid by 10% or \$50,000, whichever is lower." Queen City Mechanicals and B & J Electrical are the low bids in plumbing (\$75,000.00) and electrical (\$58,800.00) respectfully and they both meet SBE requirements. (Total recommended award - \$915,085.00.)

Our engineer's estimate for the project was \$800,000.00. This did not include demolition of the pool. There was concern from Commissioners about the cost of this project being so much over the engineer's estimate and if this will have an impact on our other projects. Mr. Koopman explained that it would have an impact and we would have to review our planned projects. Mr. Bigham advised that something will probably have to be bumped back to 2009. He

stated that our goal is to do what we can and hope to get some extra money. Ms. Driehaus asked that the plan of what may need to be pushed back be brought back to the Commission for review. Dr. Merrifield assured Commission that this would be done.

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the bid of Langeheim & Thompson, Queen City Mechanicals, and B & J Electrical for the construction of the Oyler Recreation Area Sprayground.

Motion passed.

### CORRESPONDENCE

#### Note and Pictures to Stella Barnes from Steve Gerth

Steve Gerth, Service Area Coordinator at the McKie Recreation Center, sent Ms. Barnes a note and pictures regarding Will Merritt, center participant, who recently won the North College Hill School championship in wrestling. He wanted to show off his picture to inspire the youth of the center. This item was received for filing.

#### Article in *Softball News* on Bill Bailey

There was an article in *Softball News* on Bill Bailey being appointed the new CRC softball league supervisor. This item was received for filing.

#### Article in *Softball News* about the 2008 CRC Adult Softball Program

There was an article in *Softball News* relaying all the pertinent information regarding the CRC 2008 softball program season. This item was received for filing.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

#### Western & Southern Financial Group Charitable Contributions Luncheon

Ms. Driehaus and Dr. Merrifield attended the luncheon on Tuesday, February 26, 2008. All charitable contributions for 2007 were announced at the luncheon. In 2007 CRC received a donation of \$37,000.00 to be used exclusively to support the NJTL Program in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. The 2007 donation to CRC brings Western & Southern Financial Group's

contribution over the past 17 years to \$509,633.00, including previous amounts donated by ATP Tour Charities.

Both Ms. Driehaus and Dr. Merrifield commented on the luncheon and great program.

#### Public Art Inventory

Dr. Merrifield provided Commissioners with a copy of the CRC Public Artworks Inventory.

#### Program Highlight – Central Region (Stella Barnes)

Ms. Barnes introduced Joe Goeldner from our Clifton Recreation Center. Mr. Goeldner coordinates the Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs (HOFNOD) program for the Cincinnati Recreation Commission.

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission receives a \$10,000.00 grant each year from ODNR, Division of Wildlife, Outdoor Education Section, for this program. Equipment for the program is supplied by ODNR.

The HOFNOD program serves between 6,000 and 7,000 participants annually. 13 – 15 participants from each CRC center are involved.

Mr. Goeldner distributed pamphlets and information on the program to Commissioners and answered questions about the program. There are 12 events on the 2008 HOFNOD Schedule including Kid's Fest on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and Paddle Fest on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Driehaus thanked Mr. Goeldner for his dedication to this project and for coming to the meeting to give the presentation.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Annual Golf Plan

The 2008 Annual Golf Plan was distributed at the 2/19/08 Commission meeting for their review.

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the 2008 Annual Golf Plan as submitted.

Motion passed.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Waterfront Recreation Advisory Council Constitution

Kathy Shannon reported that the Waterfront Advisory Council Constitution had not been revised since 1992. The original constitution allowed for 15 members on the Council. Staff feels that if they have 11 members who are eager and ready to work it would be better. There have been problems in the past of members not attending the meetings. The revised Constitution includes the Neglect of Duties by Members article which states "if any member shall be absent from three (3) of the meetings annually than his/her seat shall be declared vacant". The Terms of Membership would increase from 2 years to 3 years.

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approval the revised Waterfront Recreation Advisory Council Constitution as submitted.

Motion passed.

### Rental Agreement for Stephen Duncan at Riverside Boat Ramp

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the rental agreement for Stephen Duncan at the Riverside Boat Ramp.

Motion passed.

### Rental Agreement for Jason Barney at Schmidt Boat Ramp

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the rental agreement for Jason Barney at Schmidt Boat Ramp.

Motion passed.

### Rental Agreement for Francis Emsicke at Hille Ballfield

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the rental agreement for Francis Emsicke at Hille Ballfield.

Motion passed.

### Reds Ballfield Improvement Projects Update

Dr. Merrifield and Jeff Koopman provided an update on the Reds Ballfield Improvement Projects at Schmidt Recreation Complex and Weaver Recreation Field.

#### Addition to the Schmidt Building:

The Reds Community Fund is requesting that they be allowed to construct an addition on the building at Schmidt Recreation Area. The launching facility was constructed in the 1960's which included the existing building. The Reds Community Fund is requesting approval to put an addition on the building to be used for the Reds Rookie Success League program. The 2<sup>nd</sup> story addition would be on the rear of the building facing the ballfields. The ground level would be open and used as an additional covered shelter. The second story would be split into an office/storage area with a restroom and an open porch area. The Reds Community Fund will cover all cost of the addition.

#### Dugouts at Weaver:

The Reds Community Fund is requesting that they be allowed to install dugouts at the fields at Weaver Recreation Area. The dugouts will have chain link fence on all sides with brick column supports in the rear. All work will be paid for by the Reds Community Fund.

Mr. Koopman provided copies of drawings of the proposed improvements. Dr. Merrifield stated that Commission will be kept updated on these projects.

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the Reds Ballfield Improvement Projects as described.

Motion passed.

#### CRC Unity Challenge Program

Stella Barnes, Supervising Recreation Coordinator, introduced the CRC Unity Challenge Program to Commission. The Mission of the CRC Unity Challenge Program is to initiate opportunities for youth (ages 9-16 years old) to re-channel negative experiences, emotions, and energies into positive accomplishments by the creation, coordination, and implementation of a workshop, teen forum, competitive games, and an expo. Through these activities we will inspire and teach youth conflict resolution without the use of violence.

The CRC Unity Challenge staff training will take place on March 19 and 20, 2008 at the LeBlond Community Center. Ms. Barnes emphasized that we want to make sure our staff is well qualified. The program consists of staff

training, youth workshop, CRC Unity Basketball League, CRC Unity Expo, and CRC Unity Teen Forum.

The CRC Unity Challenge Committee consists of Stella Barnes, Coordinator; Mary Cox, Overseer Teen Forum; Kim Easley, Assist with Teen Forum and in charge of refreshments for staff training and workshop; Rick Schroer, Assist with workshop; Kelly Carr, Overseer Staff Training; Jenny Mobley, Overseer Unity Expo; and Tonaruse Witherspoon, Overseer CRC Unity Challenge Youth Basketball League. The Committee was present and explained their portion of the program.

The guest speakers and trainers will be Barbara Olehberg, Educator/Consultant in Youth and Teen Trauma; Odell Owens, Hamilton County Coroner; Jen Hillman, Cincinnati Childrens Hospital; Keith King, University of Cincinnati; Noble Maseru, Cincinnati Health Department; and Greg Baker, Cincinnati Police Department.

Ms. Driehaus asked how we are going to measure the outcome. Ms. Barnes advised that we are going to do a pre-program survey and a post-program survey with the participants and hopefully we will see a difference in the two surveys. The participants will come from our community centers. Mr. Fultz asked if boys and girls would be in the program together. Ms. Cox answered absolutely. They are expecting to have 100-150 participants.

The Commissioners expressed their approval of and excitement about the program. Ms. Barnes invited the Commissioners to the staff training.

#### Daily Admission Fee Proposal

Staff is recommending a pilot program for daily aquatic admission fees at 5 CRC pools for 2008. The recommended pools are the new Otto Armleder Memorial Family Aquatic Center at Hirsch, Camp Washington Pool, LeBlond Pool, North and South Fairmount Pools. Based on the 2007 daily admissions, these pools would be an appropriate test to measure if it is more advantageous to both the users of the pool and CRC to offer a choice of either a daily admission fee or a membership fee for the summer. All pools will continue to offer a \$5.00 membership fee for the summer.

Dr. Merrifield advised that this would allow friends and family a chance to visit our pools. By initiating the pilot program it will enable us to gage the fee option. Ms. Driehaus asked if staff felt this would make the pools more accessible. Dr. Merrifield responded yes, it is peculiar not to have optional fees available. Ms. Driehaus asked why we don't offer the fee option city-wide. Mr. Bigham responded that he felt it was too much of a risk to do it across the board. It could end up costing us. Ms. Driehaus wanted to know why the noted pools are being used as a pilot. Mr. Merrifield replied that it was a financial and geographic decision. Mr. Bigham reiterated that this is a pilot program, if it works out we would offer it city-wide.

The proposed daily aquatic admission fees are \$.50 for age 17 and under and \$1.00 for age 18 and up.

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the daily admission fee proposal as submitted. Ms. Driehaus abstained.

Motion passed.

#### Field Trips

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the Field Trip Requests as submitted.

Motion passed.

#### ADDITIONAL NOTES

##### CRC Meeting Dates

There was discussion on the possibility of changing the day and or time of at least one of our Commission meetings each month. Unfortunately there was not another day or time that all Commission members could be available.

##### Lifetime Golf Privileges for Major "Mac" McNeil.

Commissioner Fultz made a motion to have lifetime golf privileges extended to Major McNeil. Mr. Fultz provided information at the meeting. The material was submitted, briefly discussed, and held to be placed on the next agenda for consideration.

COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at 4:00pm at the Main Office Boardroom.

Meeting Adjourned.

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Denise M. Driehaus, President

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Norman C. Merrifield, Ed. D., Director

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